

Sarah Elizabeth Giles Murdoch

Sarah Elizabeth Giles, the daughter of George M. and Mary Elizabeth Mayoh Giles, was born in Heber City, Utah, on December 4, 1878.

Sarah spent her childhood days on the James Davis ranch, where her father moved his family when she was eight years old. The ranch was located seven miles north of Heber City and was known at that time as Elkhorn. Later, they returned to their home in Heber, which is located on the corner of 100 South and Main. The large sandstone home still stands today, although it has changed hands many times. The home has been used as living quarters, barbershop, doctor's office, floral shop, and is presently being occupied and used as a ceramic shop.

Sarah's father hauled freight between Heber City and Park City for the A.C. Hatch Company. In order to supplement the family income, Sarah would follow along behind her father driving another team and wagon loaded with freight.

Sarah attended the old Sleepy Hollow School, which was located on the corner of 200 West and 300 South in Heber City. She later attended and graduated from the Wasatch Stake Academy. She was always a faithful Church worker until her health and age prevented her from serving. She taught in the Primary for a number of years, was first counselor in the stake MIA, was a Relief Society visiting teacher, and also served as assistant secretary in the ward Relief Society. She also was a member of the Sunday School choir in 1896.

In addition to taking care of her home and family, Sarah was also a midwife for a number of years, working with Dr. W.R. Wherritt and Dr. T.A. Dannanberg. After her husband became ill and unable to work, you could see Sarah helping out in any way that she could in the fields and at home, milking cows, cutting wood, feeding the animals, and working in the garden.

Sarah loved people, especially the children, and the children showed their love for her by being in her home daily. As they grew older, the James and Sarah Murdoch yard was a playground for all the neighborhood children.

In 1937, Sarah had a close call with her life, being involved in an automobile accident. Sarah, her son, Merrol, and his daughter Merilyn, had been to the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City to get James, her husband, who had been recovering from an eye operation. Shortly after leaving the hospital, they were involved in a two-car accident. James, Merrol, and Merilyn were badly shaken up and frightened, but without injury. Sarah was thrown through the windshield.

James Crawford Murdoch